

loamy top soil and supporting sandy layer below provide a perfect base from which to grow vines. With an average growing season of 210 days, the Atlantic Ocean's moderating influences provide the East End with near perfect weather for growing grapes. Relatively mild winters help sustain vine growth, while the cool ocean breezes help temper summer's harsh heat.

As impressive as the industry's growth has been, the peripheral benefits of Long Island's still nascent wine industry are just as valuable. Though not as quantifiable, the impact the wineries have on the local tourism trade, the goods and services they purchase from local merchants, and the role the industry plays in marketing Long Island to the world are invaluable to the entire region.

On Sunday, July 14, Robert Palmer and Palmer Vineyards will commemorate its 10th anniversary with a special celebration at the winery's classically designed tasting house, an old English pub that was imported from Britain and rebuilt by Robert Palmer. To mark the event, Palmer will be releasing its special reserve 10th anniversary wine. Specially crafted by winemaker Dan Kleck, the special reserve is a limited production release made from select Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Blanc grapes. Like the many fine Palmer vintages before it, the special reserve is destined to earn the honors and admiration of the judges and public alike.

Here's to the second 10 years of excellent wine at Palmer Vineyards.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD VARLEY
FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
AS A FIREMAN

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to Edward Varley for his 50 years of dedicated service to the Washington, CT, Volunteer Fire Department.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department was chartered in 1926 and on July 10, 1946, Edward Varley began what was to be the longest service of a volunteer fireman the town of Washington has ever had. As the first member of the fire department to earn this achievement, Mr. Varley deserves our praise and our gratitude for the courage he has displayed, putting his life on the line in situations where the risk was high. Mr. Varley also served his department as fire chief in 1965–1966. The community is forever indebted to him for his outstanding service throughout the last 50 years. The citizens of Washington can rest easier knowing that their homes, businesses, and loved ones are safe thanks to thoughtful neighbors like Edward Varley.

Today, I congratulate Edward Varley for his 50 years of service and I commend him on his dedication to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT L.
DEMMONS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert L. Demmons for 22 years of dedicated service in the San Francisco Fire Department which culminated in his appointment as chief of the department on January 16, 1996.

The importance of his appointment goes beyond the fact that Chief Demmons is the first African-American to hold this position in San Francisco. What makes his appointment momentous is that Chief Demmons was the tenacious force behind the original complaint that brought about the consent decree which mandates the elimination of discriminatory practices and promotes the integration of minorities and women within the entry-level and promotional ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department. There are only a handful of men and women who challenge a system and are then given the privilege to rectify that process. I have no doubt that under Chief Demmons' leadership, both recruitment and the promotional system will meet or exceed the standards of the consent decree. I commend Mayor Willie Brown on this appointment.

Chief Demmons has devoted himself to improving the personnel practices of the fire department. When he served as the chief of management services, he ran two extraordinary recruitment drives. He also improved the EEOC complaint process which safeguards the rights of employees.

Chief Demmons has received numerous awards for his leadership in the fire department and in the community. One award that I would like to mention was the Meritorious Heroism Award that he received from the department. In 1985 when he was a lieutenant at the 33d Engine Company in Ingleside, he and another member of the department rescued a woman from a burning building and brought her outside to safety.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Demmons has demonstrated his courage both in the field and by his efforts to reform the system. I know that you will join with me in saluting him for the contributions he has made and will continue to make to the citizens of San Francisco.

THE SAFE MEDICATIONS FOR THE
ELDERLY ACT [SMEA]

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, each year tens of thousands of preventable health complications arise from inappropriate prescription drug use, costing billions annually. Yesterday, I introduced the Safe Medications for the Elderly Act or SMEA, a bill that seeks to correct this problem of inappropriate prescription drug use.

Over the course of the last year, I have worked on a solution to this problem. In an effort to curb the number of seniors being hospitalized or seriously injured—sometimes leading to death—SMEA shifts the emphasis of

pharmaceutical care from pharmacists who need to dispense drugs as rapidly as possible to pharmacists who will sit down with an elderly individual and provide adequate consultations with specific medications.

As health care enters the 21st century, it is time to empower pharmacists and encourage them to play a greater role in health care delivery. Some pharmacists are currently spending the time necessary to improve patient compliance, but many are not.

Senior citizens have special needs that require additional attention when it comes to taking prescription drugs. Pharmacists can be an important component of the health care puzzle making a significant difference in seniors lives.

SMEA provides senior citizens with Medicare coverage for carefully targeted pharmaceutical care services including: vaccine administration, consultation with physicians, and consultation with patients to improve prescription drug compliance. Pharmacists only receive compensation if they achieve results.

Numerous studies have confirmed the problems and high costs associated with inappropriate drug use, especially among senior citizens who are particularly vulnerable due to their higher rate of prescription drug usage for multiple health problems.

Last year, the General Accounting Office [GAO] report that hospitalizations due to inappropriate prescription drug use cost about \$20 billion according to FDA estimates. The report added that inappropriate use of prescription drugs is a "potential health problem that is particularly acute for the elderly."

Another study cited in the Archives of Internal Medicine in October 1995, stated that:

Prescription-drug related problems—often caused by patients not taking their drugs properly—cost an estimated \$76.6 billion in medical bills and cause 119,000 deaths a year.

A recent Wall Street Journal article (April 12, 1996, by Frank Bass) reported that a program under the H-E-B Grocery Co. and Nueces County's Memorial Medical Center in south Texas found that "pharmacist counseling can both benefit chronically ill patients and reduce health-care costs." The Wall Street Journal cited an H-E-B spokesman saying that "among the people in the program, emergency-room trips have declined 23 percent, hospital admissions 33 percent, and physician visits 41 percent."

These are just a few of the studies and stories that exist to illustrate the problems that the elderly encounter with prescription drug misuse and positive benefits of proper pharmacist counseling.

Under the vaccine administration provision, pharmacists would be compensated for administering certain vaccines to elderly individuals. This would only apply to States where pharmacists are authorized to provide such services. Typically, States with large rural populations certify pharmacists for vaccine administration, because in many instances, a pharmacist is the most accessible health care provider in a rural community.

SMEA would provide one more opportunity for seniors to receive preventive medicine—a simple vaccine—that can save lives and Medicare dollars. Vaccines have a proven record as a cost savings to the health care system.

The second section of SMEA involves physician consultations. A pharmacist would only be reimbursed when consulting a physician about a senior citizen's prescription drug regimen which resulted in the physician taking action on the pharmacist's advice. In other